

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



No. 50

October 1998

LEY LINE? NO, THE LYNE LEY!

My wife Doris recently became curate of the parish of Lyne and Longcross, near Chertsey, and, although both Lyne and Longcross churches are nineteenth century, I decided to link them on the map and found quite an interesting ley. Dowsing in the field, I found it to be above average in width - about ten paces wide (if previous findings apply, this would mean twenty at sunrise and sunset).

Coming westwards on to the West London O.S. map, the line goes through a multijunction at Morden, a church at New Malden and one at Surbiton, then a large cross-roads at Thames Ditton before reaching the ancient St. Mary's Church at Walton-on-Thames. It then reaches an unmarked centre at Shepperton, half a mile of straight track over Chertsey Meads, the junction by the Runnymede Centre where it meets the Windsor ley mentioned in a previous Touchstone, and another unmarked centre south of Chertsey, and yet another just west of the A320. After this it comes to Lyne and Longcross churches, and reaching the Swinley Forest area south of Bracknell, passes through a multijunction with a county boundary (Surrey and Berkshire), the "Lower Star Post", a spectacular meeting point of straight tracks, a cross-roads and mean-following road at Finchamstead, a multijunction at



Lyne Church

**SURREYEARTHMYSERIESGROUPMEETSONTHESECONDTWURSDAY
OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT AUGUST AND DECEMBER) AT ADDLESTONE**

Stratfield Saye, another one at Three Ashes south of Silchester, which also has the course of a Roman road, and a coincident track near Silchester Farm.

The formation of two unmarked centres along with the number of other points made me think this is quite an interesting ley, even though there are no actual prehistoric points found, and in following it in the Chertsey area it was found to be ten paces wide. The unmarked centre south of Chertsey is unmarked on the ground too, but a little to the east on the ley there is what seems to be a small oak grove. At the other unmarked centre, there seems to be a small deciduous clump of trees. The line was found to be twelve paces walking along the road, which corresponds to its slightly oblique angle.



Longcross Church

grounds of this church - I could pick out the Lyne ley, at its correct length as found elsewhere, when concentrating on filtering out all others, but as soon as the concentration lapsed the rods began to spin powerfully again. There is what seems to be a mound behind the churchyard in the Ministry of Defence land, but this was on a previous field trip found to be something erected during the war.

I cycled on to the motorway bridge on Chobham Common, which the ley passes through, and found it again there.

Some weeks after this I spent a day exploring Swinley Forest, a huge area comprised mainly of pinewoods between Bracknell and Camberley. It is Crown Estate, open to the public, and has many radiating straight tracks or rides that were mainly created in the early eighteenth century. The two main multijunctions are the Upper or Roman Star Post and the Lower Star Post. The former is called Roman because the "Devil's Highway", the Roman road from London to Silchester, passes through it.

The ley was picked up again at Lyne church, a squat towered building, and was found to graze the north wall, and to be in line with the edge of the porch on the south side. It crosses the road at a slightly oblique angle.

Continuing on to Longcross Church, this was found to be an extremely powerful point, with a fine spiral tree on one side of the entrance gate and a large double on the other; another double was found at the end of the churchyard. Strong rod-spin was experienced everywhere in the

Coming from Bracknell, I entered the forest at Caesar's Camp, a formidable Iron Age hillfort. The Sunningdale-Silchester ley we examined some time ago (that goes through the present Silchester Church and the site of the Roman early Christian church) goes through the northern tip of the fort, and along a stretch of the Nine Mile Ride nearby. This was clearly picked up and a strange twisted oak was at the end of this stretch.

From here I walked along the straight track from the camp known as the Ladies' Mile, to the Roman Star Post. The Roman road was clearly visible and wide, and this is a point on the ley which runs from Pyrford Church through the Woking Mosque centre. Continuing on to the Lower Star Post, there seemed to be a mound topped with trees at the point the ley went through. There were also two cylindrical concrete objects at the base which were probably Second World War tank traps. The area has been used for military exercises since the eighteenth century.

The mound could have been a military redoubt from that time, but it was definitely right on the line, although the line did not directly follow any of the tracks. In fact, although they look so spectacular on the map, no alignments could be found along the radiating tracks, which was a surprise, although these interesting leys do pass through the Star Post junctions.



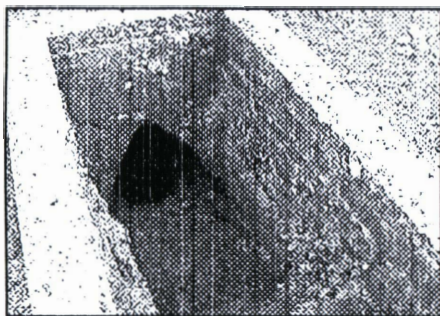
The Surrey Hill Stone

Continuing on to Surrey Hill, which marks the Berkshire-Surrey border, there is a large rounded stone seemingly at the point the Lyne ley passes through, and there is what seems to be the dried course of a small stream beside it, as there is at the stone we found on Horsell Common.

Later I visited the two junctions at Stratfield Saye and Three Ashes, but though I picked up the ley there, there was nothing of note to see.

THE TREACLE WELL FIELD TRIP *or how to follow a ley without really trying*

Seven TEMS and SEMG members gathered at a service station on the M40 on September 6th for this field trip, which turned out to be particularly interesting from a ley hunting point of view, as well as for the TEMS treacle well/mine and holy wells projects.



The Treacle Well

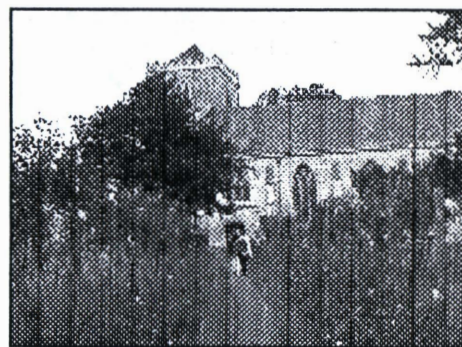
The first place headed for was Binsey, where the church boasts the original for the "treacle well" mentioned by Lewis Carroll in *Alice in Wonderland* in connection with the "little sisters who lived at the bottom of a well". This village near Oxford is in the heart of the country where Charles Dodgson went for trips on the river with Alice Liddell and her sisters.

The church is mainly thirteenth century, but is built on the site of a Saxon church associated with the well, which is in the churchyard outside the west end of the building. A set of stone steps leads down into what at first appears to be an underground vault, but which is in fact the well, dedicated both to St. Frideswide and St. Margaret of Antioch. Frideswide was the daughter of a Christian nobleman who was pursued by the Mercian prince Algar who wanted to marry her. Algar, searching for her, was blinded by lightning, but Frideswide caused the spring to appear by praying to St. Margaret and cured him. "Treacle" in medieval times meant a healing fluid.

From this church we made our way to Godstow Nunnery, near a lock on the Thames or Isis, which has another well situated in the centre of the area, under a twisted multiple-trunked elder tree. A broken piece of concrete covered it, but there seemed to be a pipe taking the water off. We had our lunch at a very pleasant secluded spot by the river at the bottom of steps which may have once led to a mooring place.

After lunch we travelled on to the ancient town of Dorchester, and, looking at the map, I noticed that the church is on a ley from the site of a henge monument there, and which also goes through the Abbey, the parish church. It even seems to go through the two entrances to the henge. Looking back along it I was surprised to see that it also goes through Binsey Church that we had just visited.

We found Dorchester Abbey to be particularly powerful, and very rich in carvings. It is one of the few abbey churches to have survived the Reformation, due to the fact that it was bought by Richard Beaufort, a rich man of Dorchester, for use as



Dorchester Abbey



Big Rings Henge, Dorchester

a parish church. The tower is topped by a pyramid-like structure.

Next to the church is the museum, formerly a village school, which has full details of the Dorchester henge. This has never been visible from the ground in historic times - in fact it was only discovered from cropmarks by an Air Force pilot in the 1930s. But in size and situation it seems very similar to Stonehenge, except for the fact

that there is no evidence of stones there. It is, however, seemingly related to a nearby cursus (also found from crop marks) which, like the Stonehenge cursus, has remains of a wood henge at its western end. Very little was found in excavations though, and it has now been completely destroyed by gravel workings, and the site is under water. Nevertheless, several leys meet there, one of them being the one to Binsey Church. Only photographs of the crop markings now remain. When I last visited the town, a number of years ago, I had plotted three leys through it, one of which was the Binsey treacle well ley.

A more recent monument was visited next - the very ornate Maharajah's Well at Stoke Row with its dome and golden elephant above the winding machinery which lowered buckets down to water at a depth greater than twice the height of Nelson's Column. Strict instructions for its use were posted nearby. The well was the gift of the Maharajah of Benares, who gave it on hearing that Chiltern villages had similar problems of lack of water to Benares.

Continuing on to Reading, we visited the copy of the Bayeux Tapestry in the town museum, made by a group of local ladies and correct in every detail except for one of the lower border figures, a naked man who had been modestly given a pair of striped briefs (unusual attire for the 11th Century!) Halley's Comet was clearly visible and the gory tale of the succession of William after the reign of Edward the Confessor was told in graphic detail.

Reading Museum is also the home of the Silchester Collection and, although it was very close to closing time, I had to make a brief visit to it. My family lived in Silchester for a number of generations, and I am currently making a CD-ROM about them. The model of the Roman city of Calleva Atrebatum as it is thought to have been was particularly impressive.

When the museum closed, we walked from there to the Abbey Gardens and Forbury Hill, returning through the ruins of the Abbey there. It had been a very interesting day - but there was still a surprise in store when I reached home. I had drawn the ley all those years ago on the Oxford map - but when I continued it southwards on the Reading map I found it passed directly through Forbury Hill and the Abbey ruins at Reading! We had followed it all the way from Binsey without realising it.

These are the points on the Treacle Well Ley:

Cross-roads and coincident road at Enstone, cross-tracks on Oxfordshire Way, Binsey Church, clump south of Sandford, tumulus on Big Rings cursus, the Big Rings henge, Dorchester Abbey, cross-tracks at Shillingford, church at Wallingford, skirts Wallingford Castle, large multijunction at Cane End, cross-roads/tracks south of Green Dean Wood, multijunction at Chazey Heath, Forbury Hill, Reading Abbey ruins, church with spire in Reading, church with spire at Arborfield, multijunction at Yateley Common.

Farnham Field Trip Sunday 11th October



Farnham Castle Keep

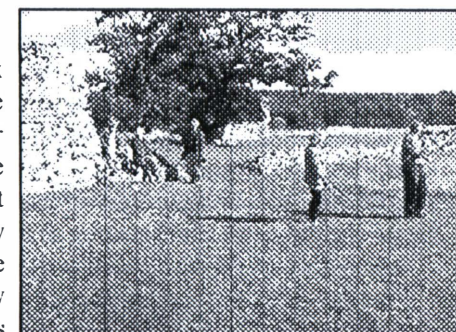
Six TEMS/SEMG members met at the imposing ruins of Farnham Castle Keep for this field trip, organised by Bob Haining and we first visited the Keep (the rest of the castle was not open to the public) and were each given a walkman with an audio tour of the castle and its history. It was one of a series of castles across the south of England owned by the powerful Bishops of Winchester, whose wealth and retinues almost rivalled those of the monarch. High on an eminence, there were spectacular views to be had of the surrounding area. The keep had been enlarged, and the square plan of the original keep was marked out with a concrete slab, through which a staircase led to a view of the castle's well.

From here we made our way to another nearby centre of former religious power - the Cistercian Abbey at Waverley. The ruins are set in a wide curve of the river, and we found the place quite powerful. There was one moderately wide ley running up the nave through the high altar site; this was later found to point directly at Odiham Firs, which we visited many years ago on Chris Hall's Ecology Field Trip (a video of this is available to anyone

who wants it). Several of us were dowsing on the trip.

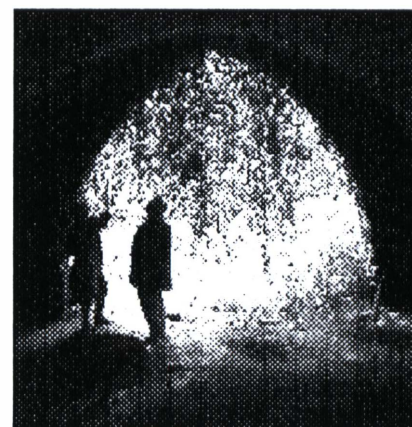
The line along the nave of the Abbey, as well as Odiham Firs, goes through Greywell Church near the infamous canal tunnel, and Milford Church in the other direction.

By dowsing, I also found a line (about six paces wide) running obliquely across the nave and through a tree by one of the former transepts. Joy said she detected water at the point this crossed the nave. Later, looking at the map, I found this to be a ley I had previously drawn. Although narrower, it is better on the map than the other, going through Merrow Church, Christ Church, Guildford, a tumulus on Puttenham Heath (that I was never able to find), Waverley Abbey, an area of Farnham called Boundstone, a cross-roads in Alice Holt Forest, a coincident road north of Binstead and a tumulus near Mestead Grange, south of Bentworth.



Along the oblique line

It was only a short walk from the Abbey, past the rushing, noisy waters of the river that could have given "Ludwell" its name, (one possible meaning of "Lud" is "loud") to the cave in the hillside above the water known as Mother Ludlam's Cave. By tradition, Mother Ludlam was a white witch who was in the habit of lending utensils to people who would find them left outside the cave. Once when a cauldron was not returned on time Mother Ludlam became angry, refused to accept it back, and would not lend anyone else anything again. The cauldron was taken to Frensham Church where it can now be seen.



Mother Ludlam's Cave entrance

The cave seems to be partly natural with an artificial front portion built on to it, and it has a grim warning notice over it now. Inside there is a pool of water from which a stream once flowed out of the entrance and down the hill to the river. The cave actually extends further back than we were able to go, but this part was nearly full of water with a very low ceiling. It is a very atmospheric place.

After leaving the cave we made our way to Frensham church, where the famous cauldron is on view. Usually kept at the west end of the church by the tower, we found it near the altar as part of a Harvest Festival display. It is a huge bowl of beaten copper standing on three legs, and there are other explanations of its origin in the church guide, though a notice in the porch does give the Ludlam legend.



*The holes in the
outcrop at Stony Jump*

The final visit on the trip was to Stony Jump, one of the series of hills known as the Devil's Jumps, with legendary associations both with Mother Ludlam and the Devil's Punchbowl not far to the south at Hindhead. Stony Jump is the only one accessible to the public, and has a very impressive outcrop of rock at the summit which Lionel compared with volcanic rocks he had seen on Tenerife, even seemingly complete with blow holes. He was surprised to see it in the Surrey countryside.

A Press Release on Behalf of the Genius Loci of West Penwith

MEYN MAMVRO
Ancient stones & sacred sites
in Cornwall

"It really is a smashing magazine with a professional gloss to it. Highly recommended"
Paul Devereux

£2.00 for current edition or £6 for a year's subscription from:-
 51 Carr Busavern, St Just, Penzance,
 Cornwall TR19 7QX.

Also available:- 4 different EM Guides
 to ancient sites in Cornwall & Scilly.
 Details on request.

Imagine if you will, living in a land where the very ground resonates with the Old Energies, where every tree, rock and stream holds its own special powers; watching and caring for the old celebration places, holy wells and healing stones communicating with each generation, learning their ways, quietly and constantly.

Imagine then observing the gradual but relentless upsurge of interest in the Old Places in a new way. This is fine but eventually the need arises for networks and organisations to protect the ancient sites from too much attention.

This is what it has been like living in West Penwith over the years. Now we are informed that the World and his Wife will be visiting our land next year in order to experience the total

eclipse of the sun. Well, how would you feel? Guests are always very welcome, but invasions are certainly not.

Local Pagans, who care lovingly for the sites all year round, have decided that the best way to minimise the possibility of any damage to the sites is to hold celebrations in order to focus the energy appropriately. For this reason we are working to co-ordinate eclipse celebrations at the major ancient sacred sites in West Penwith. These open rituals will also be a way of protecting these special places from the overenthusiastic, under-educated and ignorant visitor who may be thinking of altering them.

This decision has the full support of local landowners, Penwith District Council, Cornwall Archaeology Unit and English Heritage. We have chosen Boscawen-un as the main focus for our own attention using it to link energies to all the sites. We have used this principle before to good effect, in fact the last time there was an earthquake the next morning! We invite anyone wanting to carry out a ritual at any of the major ancient sacred sites to co-operate with us in making sure that everyone gets the chance to have a meaningful spiritual experience.

We realise the land belongs to no-one and that no-one can claim rights over it, however we do appeal to peoples' sense of courtesy and respect for the sacredness of the land and for the genius loci at these places. We can't be held responsible for the consequences to anyone who crassly blunders into sacred places with the intent of taking over to become part of a media circus. Which brings us neatly to the subject of Spriggans.

The word comes from the Cornish "sperysyan" meaning spirits. People say that geese make good watchdogs. They obviously haven't met an angry spriggan. These creatures are part of the family of fair folk, but are not renowned for their fair aspect. They can be particularly vicious and live only in Penwith in West Cornwall, for which the rest of Britain should be very relieved. Spriggans haunt all the ancient places, the weird and wonderful cairns, the hilltop castles, the stone circles, quoits and standing stones and what they hate more than anything, and will attack without quarter, are those who are miserly, mean-spirited and who threaten their homes.

So who will Cornish Pagans turn to ensure that all our best loved ancient sacred sites survive the invasion of people coming to see the eclipse next summer? Too right - we intend to get all the help we can. Starting this Samhain we will be working rituals to wake up - slowly, gently and very carefully all the wild elemental spirits in which Cornwall abounds. The first ritual will aim to release and call upon these elementals from the Otherworld which is so close and intense in Penwith. The rituals will continue each full moon up to the time of the eclipse.

We intend Britain to have a magically throbbing big toe by August next year. If the European Community was up for it we'd also be applying for Magical Objective One Status to get our fair share of European Magical subsidy. Since the EC hasn't got this

sorted out yet, we would welcome appropriate magical assistance from anyone who would like to "link in" to our efforts. We look forward to some interesting energy surges in our full moon rituals from Samhain onwards - it goes without saying that we will be thanking and returning the spirits to their former state after the eclipse.

Warning

Be afraid - be very afraid - if you have any ideas of being disrespectful to any of our ancient sacred sites next August. There is an old Comish saying, 'there isn't hedge without an ear, or a down without an eye!' In normal times you are likely to be seen or heard if you get up to no good. Next year you may get set upon by Spriggans who are known for their wicked sense of humour and timing, and don't count on Spriggans understanding the concept of a proportionate response if you do decide to visit their abodes you are advised to add nothing nor take anything away. Spriggans like their homes just the way they are and don't take kindly to anyone doing a spot of redecorating without permission! Of course we, and the Spriggans, will welcome anyone who comes with respect for our ancient sacred landscape and treats it and the residents, both material and otherworldly with courtesy. We leave the rest to your imagination.

Cassandra Latham in cahoots with Andy Norfolk.

If anyone wants to help with a ritual at any of the ancient sacred sites please contact Andy Norfolk, The Cottage, Crowan, Prate, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 9NB.

email: andy.norfolk@easynet.co.uk

LETTERS

Dear Mr Goddard:

I have been trying to locate and contact groups or individuals to discuss a phenomenon that I am more and more aware of, and am unable to explain or find where it fits in the world as we live today, and you may be able to help me. I find I am able to feel the lines of 'energy' that are to be found in the vicinity of long barrows and other prehistoric sites, and find that these radiate outward from these places and extend several miles in seemingly straight lines, in several directions. I know these lines are extensive, I have walked along some as best as I can, and taken compass bearings.

As a member of the Gatekeeper Trust and through talking with them I found that most churches and cathedrals are sited on crossing lines. I have since felt these lines in the vicinity of my local church, which is old, and the old abbey here, also at Winchester, Westminster and Southwark Cathedral and numerous other places, where the lines show differing qualities of strength and texture. Last Easter, with no pre-deliberation, I visited Ireland and by chance came upon Newgrange and Tara finding very defined lines at these places, and at Newgrange, when at the centre of it, I experienced a 'blissful' feeling that

started at my feet and worked upwards. Recently, when out for a walk, I found a site near Winchester that produced a similar effect. The things I have mentioned are probably well known to yourself, and, with your help, I feel that I may possibly find the contacts I need to progress with my understanding of them. I readily accept that I am 'dowsing' but it certainly is not a 'psychic' experience, I feel the lines with my hands, as if passing through unseen cobwebs or an electric field of some kind. I am curious to find out if the phenomenon could be detected using electronic sensors, and thereby demonstrated to others. My professional life has been mainly associated with research and development in the field of aviation electronics, and I am also a Healer Member of the National Federation of Spiritual Healers, and it is with them I have developed a sensitivity to feel the auras of living things. I will be grateful for any help or advice you may feel you can to give me.

Steve Douglas, 11, St. Margaret's Lane, Titchfield, Fareham, Hampshire.

NOTES AND NEWS

TEMS Meetings

Sunday 22nd November, Hampton. 2.30-6.30pm, including tea, £2.50. NOW GATHER TOGETHER YOUR MONOLITHS. Neil Sawell, an anthropology student, has a new theory, drawing from Brian Hayden's work and the rise of settled agriculture from hunter-gatherers, 6000-3500 BC, on how crowds were assembled for the construction of megalithic monuments. He investigates Stone Age social engineering. Please ring Lionel-0181-979-3148.

Sunday 13th December. Christmas supper with desserts and extras. Plus entertainments, slides, videos, games. Please ring Lionel - 0181-979-3148.

London Earth Mysteries Circle meetings

(7.00 pm. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, The Meeting Room, the New Diorama Centre, 34, Osnaburgh Street, London, NW1. Members £1.50, Non-members £2.50, unwaged £2)

November 24th THE MEGALITHS AND PSYCHO-SPIRITUAL PRACTICES, by Rob Stephenson

December 8th CONTRIBUTIONS AND SOCIAL EVENING. Chance to share personal research and relive recent trips. A projector will be available. **ALL WELCOME.**

Some good Web addresses

Here are some sites you might like to look out for if you are searching the Web:

Surrey Earth Mysteries Group <http://www.surreymc.gov.uk/outreach/semg.htm> Our own site, with pages on the E-line, the Hidden Unity, and other topics, as well as lots of earth mysteries links.

All the Planets are Inhabited! <http://194.205.82.2/atpai.htm> My other site, about extraterrestrial contact.

The Ley Hunter <http://www.leyhunter.com/leyhunt/home.html> The ley hunting magazine started by Philip Heselton and myself in 1963 now has its web site.

The Geo Organisation <http://www.geo.org/geowel.htm> A lot of earth mysteries here, including quite a lot on dowsing.

Earth Mysteries Home Page <http://www.hobart.tased.edu.au/~rogers/earthm.htm> An interesting Australian site.

Chris Witcombe's Earth Mysteries <http://witcombe.bcpw.sbc.edu/EMIntro.html> An American site with Watkinsian information and pictures.

THE HIDDEN UNITY and BEGINNINGS

The Hidden Unity looks at the strange phenomenon of subconscious siting of ley points, and notes that places of worship, of all religions and all ages, tend to predominate on leys. The environmental and philosophical implications of this are discussed, and the apparent necessity of worship but irrelevance of doctrine. Two ley centres are given as examples, and investigated in depth - the Shah Jehan Mosque in Woking and the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, Scunthorpe. There is an appendix by Eileen Grimshaw on the significance of the Pagan religion to this study. Illustrated with photographs, maps and line drawings.

Beginnings is about a series of potentially useful discoveries, mainly made by Jimmy Goddard over a period of about twenty years, but having some overlap with discoveries made by others. For various reasons, the investigations are all in their early stages, and some have not been continued. They include earth energy detection, natural antigravity, subconscious siting, ley width, and the solar transition effect. There is also a chapter on cognitive dissonance - a psychological factor which seems to have been at the root of all bigotry - scientific, religious and other - down the ages. The booklet is concluded with an account of the discovery of leys by Alfred Watkins.

EARTH PEOPLE, SPACE PEOPLE

In 1961, Tony Wedd produced a manuscript *Earth Men, Space Men*, detailing many claims of extraterrestrial contact. It was never published, and the MS is presumably lost. To try to make up for the loss in a much more modest size, this booklet has been prepared. As well as giving details of some of the more prominent contact claims, there are articles on the history of the STAR Fellowship and some of its personalities, evidence for life in the Solar System and investigation into extraterrestrial language.

Each booklet is £2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address.

TOUCHSTONE is the newsletter of the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. £2 for four quarterly issues from J. Goddard, 25, Albert Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15. 2PX. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard. IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE AN "X" WILL FOLLOW THIS SENTENCE: